

11. A method of identifying a compound that has anti-hypertension activity but does not cause an increase in the level of A $\beta$ , the method comprising:

contacting A $\beta$  with an ECE in the presence of said compound;

detecting the amount of unhydrolyzed A $\beta$ , wherein lack of an increase in the amount of unhydrolyzed A $\beta$  produced in the presence of said compound compared to the amount of unhydrolyzed A $\beta$  produced in the absence of said compound is an indication that said compound does not cause an increase in the level of said ECE; and

determining the anti-hypertension activity of said compound.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the anti-hypertension activity of said compound is determined in an animal.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said animal is a spontaneously hypersensitive rat (SHR).

14. A method of determining that an anti-hypertension compound or candidate compound does not cause an increase in the level of A $\beta$ , the method comprising:

contacting A $\beta$  with an ECE in the presence of said anti-hypertension compound or candidate compound; and

detecting the amount of unhydrolyzed A $\beta$ ,

wherein the lack of an increase in the amount of unhydrolyzed A $\beta$  produced in the presence of said compound compared to the amount of unhydrolyzed A $\beta$  produced in the absence of said compound is an indication that said compound does not cause an increase in the level of said ECE.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said anti-hypertension compound or candidate compound is an ECE inhibitor.

40. The method of claim 8, wherein said cell is selected from the group consisting of H4 neuroglioma cells, CHO cells, and HUVEC cells.

41. The method of claim 7, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid, a polypeptide, a chemical compound, a bacterial extract, a fungal extract, and a plant extract.

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42. The method of claim 12, wherein said unhydrolyzed A $\beta$  is detected in said animal.

43. The method of claim 11, wherein said unhydrolyzed A $\beta$  is detected using an immunoassay.

44. The method of claim 11, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid, a polypeptide, a chemical compound, a bacterial extract, a fungal extract, and a plant extract.

*B<sup>2</sup> corel.* 45. The method of claim 14, wherein said unhydrolyzed A $\beta$  is detected using an immunoassay.

46. The method of claim 14, wherein said unhydrolyzed A $\beta$  is detected in an animal.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein said animal is a SHR.

48. The method of claim 14, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid, a polypeptide, a chemical compound, a bacterial extract, a fungal extract, and a plant extract.

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